



# **NAVAL BASE VENTURA COUNTY RAB EXECUTIVE BOARD:**

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## Restoration Advisory Board Newsletter

Dear RAB members and others with interest, for those who missed our last meeting in November, Steve Granade gave a presentation about a very innovative technology being used in a pilot test at Point Mugu involving electrokinetic remediation of contaminated sediments. Please call if you missed the meeting and would like a copy of his presentation.

Our meeting on February 7 will feature site updates as well as Josh Fortenberry providing an overview of funding and work planned for this year at both Port Hueneme and Point Mugu.

### **MUGU**

#### **Site 5...**

The sewer line investigation near the site is now complete. Preliminary indications are that there is no contamination in the sewer from the metal plating site, essentially confirming the Navy's position that no linkage between the site and the sewer line exists. A full written report will follow.

The Navy and the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) have finalized a sampling plan that will be used to complete the Remedial Investigation phase of the work at this site. The plan will require water sampling at specific locations and depths to determine the extent of contamination surrounding the electrokinetic test site. This phase of the work will also evaluate the groundwater hydrology at the site. Fieldwork is expected to begin the first week in February. Also in February, we will bid farewell to the Army Corps of Engineers team, led by Mr. David Gent. The Corps has been operating the electrokinetic test site since January 1999. A contractor will be selected in February to continue the work at the site.

#### **Site 6...**

The bioremediation test was completed in

December. Preliminary results indicate that the same microbial process that has been used successfully at Site 24 to clean up chlorinated solvents is also alive and working well at Site 6. A report detailing the results of this work will be available in March.

#### **Site 24...**

A follow-on phase to the original "Got Milk" site work began in December. Equipment is being installed that will inject oxygen and natural gas into the groundwater to complete the cleanup started by the lactic acid injection. This is projected to reduce the time necessary to complete the cleanup from 15 years to 2 years or less. The injection will begin in late February or early March.

### **PORT HUENEME**

#### **Feasibility Study...**

Sites 4, 5, 6, 8, 10, 11, 12A, 15, and 21, (9 sites in all), are undergoing a feasibility study. The feasibility study phase in the CERCLA cleanup process usually follows the remedial investigation (RI) phase, however, in this case, some sites went through only a site inspection (SI) and not the more thorough RI. The results of the SI for many of these sites were sufficient that remedial investigation was not necessary and the sites could proceed to the feasibility study phase. The DTSC agrees with the Navy that Sites 10 and 11 warrant a "no

further action" classification, based on contaminants present and anticipated future land use, but they have requested that the risk assessment for these sites be revised to include a more current treatment of metals existing at each site. Sufficient data exists to accomplish this effort and the Navy is proceeding with the assessment. Sites 5, 6, 12A & 15 had only cursory risk assessments performed and are now undergoing more in depth assessments.

A major review of the feasibility study effort is in progress. At first, the Navy expected to place many of these sites in an "institutional control" status since the risk to human health and the environment was low, primarily because no pathways existed for the contaminants to cause harm. "Institutional control" status means that a site will remain in the IR program, requiring a periodic review of the site, its current land use, and an evaluation of the potential for contaminants to move beyond established locations. While this approach is cost effective, it doesn't meet the Navy goal of removing sites from the IR program. The only way a site can be removed from the program is if the risks are shown to be very low or if the contaminate is completely removed which removes all risk. So the Navy is considering removing as many sites as possible from the program by completely removing the risk. In most cases, this can be accomplished by simply excavating and removing all contaminated soil at the sites. The Navy will be meeting with the state toxicologist at the end of January to discuss this matter. We will be able to report the outcome of this discussion at our meeting in February.

#### **Sites 12B & 23 Removal...**

The contractor hired to conduct soil removal at Sites 12B & 23 has set up a construction trailer and has surveyed the work to be done. The only outstanding item is a signed Action Memorandum that has met with some resistance by DTSC. The Navy and the DTSC are still negotiating a proper clean up level. The Navy has selected a cleanup level stated in the Toxic Substance Control Act (TSCA) regulations, while DTSC believes that we should use the level stated in the EPA's Preliminary Remediation Goals (PRGs). This should be ironed out shortly and then the contractor can begin actual removal of the soil. This effort, when completed in late May, will result in these sites being classified as Response Complete and they will be removed from the pro-

gram regarding further study or analysis. This brings the total number of sites at Port Hueneme that are classified in this manner to 15 with work still to be completed at 9 remaining sites.

#### **Groundwater Remediation Investigation...**

Several RAB members are reviewing the draft report of the remedial investigation conducted on the groundwater below the base. If anyone else is interested in reviewing the report, please call (805) 989-9258 to request a copy. We are hoping to set up a meeting of all reviewers in February 2002, to list everyone's comments to be turned over to Josh Fortenberry for coordination with the contractor. The reading material for the investigation is very significant in volume and quite complex. (Plank owner RAB members are old hands at this!) The Executive Summary is available in "pdf" format that can easily be e-mailed to anyone with an e-mail address. You will find the summary interesting and a quick way to determine whether or not you want to read the entire document.

#### **NETTS**

The semi-annual report on the results of the bio-barrier project was sent to the Regional Water Quality Control Board in early January. In a nutshell, the seeded zones show concentration decreases of more than 3 orders of magnitude, which translates to a 99.9% remediation of the MTBE! The barrier is degrading MTBE to less than 5 parts per billion and is also degrading the BTEX as it flows across the system. In December, the project was awarded the National Groundwater Association's annual Outstanding Project in Ground Water Remediation Award.

That's our news since October. Please make plans to join us on February 7. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call me, Gail Pringle, at 989-9256 or e-mail [pringlegl@cbcph.navy.mil](mailto:pringlegl@cbcph.navy.mil).



**United We Stand**